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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
LATENT FINGERPRINTS PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 29-January-2004

10 INHERENT LUMINESCENCE

10.1 INTRODUCTION

The use of alternate light sources in conjunction with various chemical techniques and dyes have proven very effective in visualizing latent impressions. Substances found in latent print residue may luminesce when illuminated by the proper wavelength of light and viewed with the appropriate filters. B-vitamin complexes, that are a natural component of perspiration, may be the cause of this reaction. Various contaminants such as cosmetics may become part of latent print residue and may inherently luminesce as well. Additionally certain materials such as styrofoam and galvanized or zinc plated metal are observed to consistently produce impressions that will luminesce without the application of chemical processing or dyes. This inherent luminescence allows for examination of items that may be destroyed by other techniques.

Proper safety precautions including avoiding skin exposure and proper eye protection with appropriate optical densities should be utilized when operating ultraviolet light sources, or alternate light sources. Consult the appropriate users manuals for the safe use and appropriate eye protection for the specific piece of equipment being utilized.

10.2 PREPARATIONS

No specific preparations required.

10.3 INSTRUMENTATION

Alternate Light Source

10.4 MINIMUM STANDARDS AND CONTROLS

Not Applicable.

10.5 PROCEDURE OR ANALYSIS

The procedure for this technique consists of examining the item with the alternate light sources using appropriate filtration. Common wavelengths used are 488 nm, 510 nm and 514.5 nm. In most cases a Wratten #21 filter or the orange laser filters are appropriate for examination. Some success may be seen with the use of ultraviolet light sources and the various wavelengths produced by alternate light sources. The examiner must choose the appropriate filters and eye protection for these light sources and the wavelengths selected. All observed impressions must be photographed using the appropriate films and filters.

10.6 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Items can be examined for inherent luminescence without destruction of the item. In addition many surfaces should be routinely examined using this technique as it has been shown to produce consistent results. The item being examined may luminesce and this background luminescence may improve the contrast of visible impressions much as the use of metal salt post treatment of ninhydrin developed impressions. This non-destructive process is a relatively simple technique that has been proven to be very successful in producing positive results.

10.7 REFERENCES

- 1. Dalrymple, Brian E.; J. M. Duff; E. Roland Menzel. "Inherent Luminescence of Fingerprints by Laser"; *Identification News*, January **1977**, 22, 1, 3-6.
- 2. Menzel, E. Roland. Fingerprint Detection with Lasers; Marcel Dekker: NY, 1980; pp 108.